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COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Installations in Stettin.

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 23 August 1951

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REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

Soviet Units and Offices.

1. From early 1945 to early 1951 a Soviet headquarters under the command of Colonel Kovenko, (fnu), was located at 19 ul. Piotr Skargi, formerly Roonstrasse, in Stettin (O 54/Q 55). The superior headquarters was located in Liegnitz (O 52/B 82). A general from Liegnitz inspected the headquarters in Stettin about every three months. The headquarters personnel included 100 to 120 officers, most of whom were field-grade officers and captains. It was the opinion of source that Colonel Kovenko, (fnu), was the military post commander of Stettin, since no other high-echelon Soviet headquarters was known to be stationed there. The building at 19 Roonstrasse was three-story, each story housing about 14 to 16 offices. A truck usually occupied by 15 to 20 Soviet officers shuttled between the headquarters building and the harbor three times daily. The officers were apparently assigned to the Soviet harbor administration which was also under jurisdiction of Colonel Kovenko, (fnu). A colonel was frequently seen to be the ranking officer among the officers en route to the harbor. No Polish officers or soldiers were observed in the Soviet headquarters building. Colonel Kovenko, (fnu), occasionally wore the uniform of a Polish colonel.
2. The barracks installation on the northeast side of ul. Mickiewicza, formerly Kreckowerstrasse, was occupied by Soviet troops up to the end of 1950. Source, who worked in the installation as a glazier in May 1950, observed that at least 250 young infantry soldiers were quartered in each of the seven barracks buildings. Most of them wore red epaulets. They were armed with rifles and submachine guns. There was little vehicular traffic. The soldiers were given infantry training, but attended no large-scale exercises. [REDACTED] that the large training field north of the barracks installation was being used by Soviet and Polish units and that firing practice was held there. (1)
3. A residential area on both sides of Al. Wojska Polskiego, formerly Falkenwalderstrasse, just south of Park Kasprowicza, formerly Quistorp Park, was occupied by Soviet officers and their dependents. (2) A construction detail of about 70 workmen, under the command of Major Engr Stepkov, (fnu), was housed at 113 Falkenwalderstrasse. Lieutenant Colonel Zakharokh (phonetic spelling), (fnu), was Stepkov's superior. The detail detached skilled laborers for maintenance work on all Soviet billets in the area of the city and the harbor. Soviet hotels were located at 117

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Falkenwalder Strasse, 17 Roonstrasse, and 7 ul. P. Wawrzyniaka, formerly Alleestrasse.

4. The barracks installation on the southwest side of Kreckowerstrasse quartered Polish troops of about battalion strength. It consisted of 4 four-story quarters and 1 mess building. At the end of 1948 or the beginning of 1949, the barracks installation was vacated by Soviet troops who moved into the barracks installation on the other side of the street with other Soviet troops already installed. The Polish soldiers who succeeded the Soviets were all about 20 and 21 years old, and wore olive-drab uniforms and long trousers with leggings. They wore visor caps when on town leave. No heavy weapons or trucks were seen. A sedan occasionally moved into the installation. There was only routine training activity up to May 1950. (3)

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5. [REDACTED] on the southwest side of Falkenwalder Strasse, southwest of Jez. Blebokie, formerly Glanbeck Lake, was occupied by a Polish unit. In September 1950, source observed four companies of soldiers marching toward the barracks installation. The soldiers, from 20 to 22 years old, were armed with rifles and submachine guns. No trucks were seen. (4)
6. According to fellow workers the barracks installation on ul. Lukasinskiogo, formerly Wamlitzerstrasse, was occupied by another Polish unit. A Polish military band was also stationed there. (5)
7. The garages of the former German Artillerie Kaserne on the northside of ul. Macieja Rataja, formerly Pasewalkerchaussee, opposite the former central cemetery, were used for the storage of construction material up to early 1950. No soldiers were seen near these garages or in the vicinity of the barracks installation. Source could not determine whether troops were located in the barracks installation. (6)
8. Some sections of the former German 2d Grenadier Regt Kaserne at 4 to 6 ul. Potulicka, formerly Linsingenstrasse, were occupied by an SP (Labor Service) Bn. in late 1950. A barracks installation near Kreckower Strasse was occupied by another SP Battalion. Each battalion numbered about 600 men. (7)

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9. No Polish tank or artillery units were observed in Stettin. In September 1950, [REDACTED] regiment of three or four battalions returning to Stettin from maneuvers. The unit came from the direction of Finkenwalde (O 54/Q 55) (8).
10. There was only a thin veneer of harmony between Soviet and Polish authorities. Source repeatedly observed that the Soviets annulled orders of expulsion issued by Polish authorities. Germans were frequently protected by Soviets against Polish authorities, particularly in lodging affairs. Up to early March 1951, 3,000 to 4,000 Germans were living in the city. By order of the Soviet military administration, all of them were living in the city quarters of Ul. Beyzyma, formerly Bethanienstrasse; ul. Spoldzielcza, formerly Rankestrasse and ul. Bogumily, formerly Felix Dahn Strasse. The German club in the former Bethanien Hospital was closed down in the fall of 1950 because of a fight between Poles and Germans. The clubrooms were also used by Soviets for festivities.

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- (1) [REDACTED] Comments. [REDACTED] reported that the barracks installation was occupied by

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about 1,200 Soviet soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, in mid-October 1950. The soldiers were allegedly assigned to the unloading of ships in the Soviet sector of Stettin harbor. See [REDACTED]

- (2) This confirms statements of late March 1951 by two refugees.
- (3) The installation was allegedly occupied in September 1950 by a Polish WOP (border guard) battalion which is not confirmed by the present report. The information that the troops had heavy weapons is indicative of a WOP unit, however.
- (4) Information on the troops in the installation has been conflicting. The barracks installation was definitely occupied by Polish troops up to the end of 1950 and possibly by Soviet troops in early 1951.
- (5) The barracks installation on the north side of ul. Lukasinskiego is part of the barracks installation on the southwest side of ul. Mickiewicza which is occupied by Polish units.
- (6) The former German artillery Kaserne was reported to have been reconstructed as a quarters for infantry troops in early 1951.
- (7) The installation was allegedly occupied by Polish troops in November 1950. [REDACTED]
- (8) This information may constitute a confirmation of the transfer of the 9th Tank Regt from Stettin to Stolp. The transfer allegedly took place in the spring of 1949. [REDACTED]

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